

PAIUTE INDIAN TRIBE OF UTAH
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History

In the late 19th century, the Paiute Bands in southern Utah coalesced into five Bands: the Shivwits Band, Indian Peaks Band, Kanosh Band, Koosharem Band, and the Cedar Band. Reservations were established between 1903 and 1929 for all but the Cedar Band whom the federal government overlooked. In 1954, the Bands were terminated from federal recognition, with the exception of the Cedar Band who received no federal assistance and consequently suffered de facto termination. The Tribe became ineligible for any federal assistance for 26 years. The results of termination that the tribe experienced between 1954 and 1980 had devastating social and economic consequences. Nearly one-half of all tribal members died during this period for lack of health resources and lack of adequate income to meet their needs. About 15,000 acres of former reservation lands were lost, primarily due to the inability to pay property taxes. Pride and culture diminished dramatically.

Restoration

In 1975, the Paiute Tribe began their efforts to gain federal recognition once again. On April 3, 1980, by an Act of Congress (via "The Paiute Restoration Act, P.L.96-227) the federal trust relationship was restored to the five Bands which constitute the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah. All five Bands became federally recognized. Four years later, Congress passed "The Paiute Reservation Plan" in order to recover lands lost due to termination. A new reservation land base was added in 1984 with the return of 4,800 acres of BLM land (out of the 15,000 acres lost). The original lands lost were not included. The lands are small parcels and undeveloped. The selection of these lands was based on their economic potential and as a result most of them are located along I-15 and I-70. As a compromise, the Paiute Tribe agreed to a \$2.5 million irrevocable trust fund to be set up to assist the Tribe in Economic Development and Tribal Government. The Paiute Tribe is only allowed to use the interest off this trust. It took the Paiute Tribe nine years to accomplish the task of restoring federal trust status and it took the federal government less than a year to take it away. In 1983, the majority of tribal members had access to adequate housing and health care, although chronic health problems, low educational attainment, underemployment, and alcoholism still persist.

Demographics

The Paiute Indian Tribe is located in the southwest corner of the State of Utah. The service region for tribal programs of Health, Social Services, Housing, Education, Alcohol and Drug, Environment, Recreational Activities, and Economic Development covers a five county area. The Central headquarters is located in Iron County at Cedar City, Utah. As of March 2001 there are 781 members of the Paiute Tribe, divided among the five Bands as follows:

BAND	POPULATION	%	LAND (Acres)	DISTANCE*
Cedar Band	241	31	2,060	20
Indian Peaks Band	38	5	426	22
Kanosh Band	115	15	1195	210
Koosharem Band	108	14	1240	230
Shivwits Band	279	35	27,525	128
Total	781	100%	32,446	610

* Round trip distance in miles from Cedar City.

Social Characteristics

The Paiute Tribe is a young tribe. At the time of restoration in 1980 the average age of the new Tribal Council was 25 years of age. According to the latest Health Department data, 15% of our entire membership is over the age of 55 and 85% are under the age of 55. Of the total population of 781, approximately one half constitutes the youth who are 16 years of age and younger.

Tribal Government

The Paiute Tribe is organized under the provisions of the “1980 Restoration Act”, the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, and the Paiute Tribal Constitution. The Tribe is made up of five Bands. The Tribal Council consists of six members, one from each Band area and a Tribal Chairperson. Council members are elected by popular vote of their respective Band, and the Chairperson is elected by the entire membership of the Tribe who are 18 years of age or older. The Tribal Council is elected to four-year terms and they meet regularly once a month. The Tribal Council is the official governing body of the Tribe.

Present Council Members:

Lora Tom, Tribal Chairperson
Phil Pikyavit, Council Member, Kanosh Band
Glenn Rogers, Council Member, Shivwits Band
Travis Parashonts, Council Member, Cedar Band
Anthonia Tom, Council Member, Indian Peak Band
Cyndi Charles, Council Member, Koosharem Band